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Middlewich
Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ended 31st December, 1954

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Report for 1954

To the Chairman and members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1954.

SECTION A
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1956 acres
Population—Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	6840
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	2080
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£32476
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£127

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General.

Live Births—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	95	48	47
Illegitimate	3	1	2
Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—14·32.			
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor—14·17			
Still Births—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births—57·69.			
	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	73	36	37
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—10·67.			
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor—11·84.			
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—			
All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	30·61
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	31·58
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil

The following table compares the main statistics for 1954 with the years 1954-1953 :—

Year		Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infants Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis
1943	...	6097	20·82	10·82	23·62	9	1
1944	...	6020	21·59	12·62	38·46	12	6
1945	...	5926	21·26	11·47	55·55	11	2
1946	...	6206	21·10	9·82	22·90	8	2
1947	...	6372	27·46	11·45	40·00	11	3
1948	...	6576	19·60	9·12	23·81	10	1
1949	...	6587	14·70	9·41	10·30	10	3
1950	...	6672	17·38	11·99	51·72	9	1
1951	...	6696	16·27	11·49	27·52	14	1
1952	...	6798	15·59	10·58	18·86	14	—
1953	...	6813	16·87	10·86	—	23	1
1954	...	6840	14·32	10·67	30·61	16	—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1954

(Taken from the Registrar General's Tables)

					M	F	T
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	2	4
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	1	—	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	4	7	11
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—

						M	F	T
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...			...	3	2	5
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	8	10	18
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...			...	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...			...	6	6	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL						36	37	73

New Industries

There were no new industrial developments during the year, but a Company manufacturing tiled fireplaces removed from premises in Webb's Lane to larger premises in Lower Street. Extensions were carried out at the Lily Works (Baby Wear); Messrs. Steventons (Sanitary Ware); and at the Middlewich Salt Company.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES for the AREA

(A) Provided by the District Council

(1) Staff

W. S. Slater, M.B. Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, Cheshire.	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the North and Mid-Ches- hire Hospital Manage- ment Committee).
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole-time)	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts).
F. Costello, A.R.SAN.I. Cert. S.I.B. Cert. Insp. of Meat and other foods	Whole-time Sanitary Inspector Victoria Buildings, Middlewich.	(Middlewich Urban District Council only).

(2) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Middlewich Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this Service has co-operated in the transport of the samples twice monthly from this area. Details of the samples and specimens are given later in the report.

(3) Environmental Services

Details of the other Services, e.g., Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Middlewich Urban District Council, are recorded later in this report.

(B) Isolation Hospital Services

Towards the end of 1954 certain wards of the Davenham Isolation Hospital were set aside for the treatment of the area's infectious cases and also a number of chronic sick patients. Out of a total of 214 admissions for 1954, eight of them came from the Middlewich Urban District.

(C) Provided by the County Council

The Cheshire County Council have officers discharging duties in the Middlewich Urban area under the following Services :— School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, including Milk Food Sales, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection. Specialist Services, e.g., Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, Speech Therapy, Residential and Temporary Accommodation under the County Welfare Services.

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following Services :—

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes

The work done during the year 1954 in the Middlewich Urban District is detailed as follows :—

Vaccination against Smallpox :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	10
School Children	...	...	...	3
Adults	...	...	...	3
TOTAL				16

Diphtheria Immunisation :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	9
School Children	...	...	...	—
Re-immunised	...	...	...	25
TOTAL				34

Whooping Cough Immunisation :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	4
School Children	...	...	...	—
TOTAL				4

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	17
School Children	...	...	...	1
TOTAL				18

During the latter part of 1954 the prophylactic which combines both diphtheria and whooping cough was put into general use. This prophylactic reduces the number of injections from five to three for each child and should preferably be given to infants of three to four months old.

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service

The services in the area continued to deal with Middlewich Urban patients expeditiously and without serious complaint throughout the year.

(c) Prevention of Illness—Care and After Care

Nursing requisites and after-care equipment were loaned for the use of the sick and needy in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service

Domestic Helps have been provided during 1954 in four households in the Middlewich District. The kind of cases assisted included old age, confinement, etc.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The Town's Public Water Supply was maintained during the year in a satisfactory condition. All houses in the District are now supplied from the mains and there are no standpipes, the houses all having their own water taps.

Ten bacteriological reports on the Town's supply have been furnished to me by the Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Whilst the condition of the Town's sewage works has received a great deal of consideration by the Council during the year, there is nothing so far of major importance to report under this

heading. Specialist advice is being obtained and it is hoped to be able to mention real progress in next year's report.

Under the following the Council's Sanitary Inspector reports :

" Closet Accommodation

Six pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year, leaving 31 pails and 5 privies still in use."

" Refuse Collection and Disposal

Collection is by means of a Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter. As the District grows by the addition of new houses, it becomes increasingly harder to make regular collections at short periods. The new housing schemes are all situated at the furthest possible point from the tip, which means that much time is taken up in journeys to empty. Maybe in another year or so another vehicle or a larger one will become essential to ensure reasonable collections.

Informal Notices were complied with for the renewal of 103 dustbins. The refuse tip, adjoining the Sewage Works at Croxton was maintained free from any nuisance.

Income from the sale of salvage amounted to £451 13s. 5d."

" Camping Sites

There are no camping sites or moveable dwellings licensed in the district."

" Destruction of Rats and Mice

The Council employs a rodent operative under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. There is insufficient work to warrant his services full-time, so he works part-time on other duties, Rodent Control taking priority.

During the year all Business and Private Premises were inspected and treatment given, as required. Dwelling houses are treated free of charge. All infestations were of a minor character. A 10 per cent test baiting of the sewers showed them to be free from infestation. All Factories and Business Premises have agreed to treatment being given, as required, and charges to be made."

" Smoke Abatement

Following discussions with the heads of industrial concerns, improvements were effected in the emission of black smoke. The

Cerebos Company agreed on a policy of automatic stoking to replace hand firing at the Pepper Street and Wychhouse Lane Works. At the end of the year, a number of such stokers had been fixed with beneficial results. Messrs. Murgatroyds were preparing a similar scheme for their Brooks Lane Works."

" **Petroleum Storage**

Twenty-one Licences were issued for the bulk storage of Petroleum."

Cheshire County Council Act, 1953

This Act came into force during 1954 in the Middlewich Urban District. The Act confers powers on the Cheshire County Council and local authorities in the administrative county in relation to lands and highways, the local government improvement, health and finance, to enact provisions with respect to hairdressers' and barbers' premises, etc.

The Act incorporates numerous sections relating to Public Health, including the following :—

- (1) Sewers drains and sanitary conveniences.
- (2) Buildings and structures.
- (3) Verminous premises or articles.
- (4) Disposal of refuse.
- (5) Infectious diseases.
- (6) Food.
- (7) Miscellaneous (Registration, etc., of Hairdressers and Barbers ; Water Supply, etc., etc.).

FACTORIES INSPECTION

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	19	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
<i>TOTAL</i> ...	36	19	1	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were inst.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
<i>TOTAL</i> ...	1	1	—	—	—

OUTWORK—Nil.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Provision of New Houses

Up to the end of 1954, 271 permanent brick post-war houses, 20 temporary bungalows and 25 permanent aluminium bungalows have been provided. The provision of new sites has not arisen as there is still accommodation on the Chadwick Fields estate.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. (a)	Number of houses inspected under P.H. and Housing Acts	86
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	105
2. (a)	Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose	Nil

3. Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation...	...	Nil
4. Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not be be in all respects fit for human habitation	... ..	42
5. Remedy of defects during the year :—		
Informal action	... ..	40
Formal action	... ..	2
6. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	Nil
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	Nil
(3) Number of houses demolished by the Council after purchase of the properties	... ..	8
(4) Number of Representations in respect of unfit houses	... ..	Nil
(5) Number of houses for which action was taken under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936	... ..	Nil
(6) Number of houses in respect of which the Council accepted undertakings, Section 11 (3) Housing Act, 1936	... ..	Nil
Other Notices Complied with :—		
Defective drains made good	... ..	16
Defective closets	... ..	26
Defective tippler-closet converted to water carriage...		1
Repairs to roof and spouting	... ..	12
Defective firegrates...	... ..	8
Repairs to Windows	... ..	3
Repairs to plasterwork	... ..	4
Walls re-pointed	... ..	3
Defective sinks renewed	... ..	2
Dustbins renewed	... ..	103
Verminous houses cleansed	... ..	3

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk

Four samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year, two of which failed in the Methylene Blue Test.

Three dealers are licensed to retail Pasteurised and T.T. Milks. There is only one dealer in the area retailing milk which is ungraded.

(b) Meat

Under this heading the Sanitary Inspector reports, as follows :—

" There is no Public Abattoir in the District. There are three private slaughterhouses licensed, two of which are mainly used in connection with the wholesale trade. All were maintained in a cleanly condition and satisfactory.

With the removal in July of all restrictions on slaughtering, the duties of meat inspecting became very heavy. A very considerable amount of the Sanitary Inspector's time was taken up and he had to work much overtime at nights and Sundays. The Cattle slaughtered, being mainly for manufacturing purposes, were aged animals, which accounts for the fact that approximately 65 per cent of all cattle killed were diseased to a greater or lesser degree.

Altogether out of 2,190 cattle killed, 329 whole carcasses were condemned for the following reasons :—

Cattle condemned :

Tuberculosis (generalised)	...	...	...	...	170
Oedema (generalised)	...	...	...	...	74
Emaciation	...	...	...	...	26
Septicaemia (generalised)	...	...	...	...	12
Ac. Septic Metritis	...	...	...	...	5
Ac. Septic Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	2
Ac. Septic Pericarditis	...	...	...	...	2
Ac. Septic Mastitis	...	...	...	...	1
Gangrene	...	...	...	...	1
Anaemia	...	...	...	...	10
Fevered	...	...	...	...	7
Multiple Abscesses	...	...	...	...	3

Extensive Bruising	...	...	...	...	...	5
Uraemia	...	...	...	...	...	5
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cysticercus Bovis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Insufficiently Bled	...	...	...	...	...	1
Multiple Tumours	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL						329

Calves Condemned

Immaturity 5 ; Emaciation 1 ; Oedema 6 ; Insufficiently Bled 3 ; Pyaemia 2 ; Uraemia 1 ; Extensive Bruising 1 ; Congenital T.B. 1 ; Total condemned 20 Calves. (Particulars relating to the calf with congenital T.B. were forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries Veterinary Officer, who visited the farm in a neighbouring district, examined the calf's Dam, which was subsequently slaughtered and found to have generalised T.B.).

Sheep condemned

Septicaemia	...	...	...	...	2
Extensive Bruising	...	...	...	...	2
Oedema	...	...	...	...	1
Multiple Abscesses	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL					6

Pigs condemned

Tuberculosis (generalised)	...	...	...	...	5
Fevered	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL					6

In addition to the foregoing whole carcasses which were condemned, the following parts and organs were also condemned :—

Parts Cattle (Tuberculosis) :

Forequarters	...	...	...	...	38
Hindquarters	...	...	...	...	4
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	...	266
Lungs	...	...	...	...	355
Livers	...	...	...	...	88
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	8
Briskets	...	...	...	...	11

Other Diseases (Parts) Cattle

Bruising—Forequarters 13, Hindquarters 25, Briskets 2.
 Abscesses—Heads and Tongues 2, Livers 10.
 Actinomycosis—Heads and Tongues 2.
 Cr. Bovis—Head and Tongues 1. (In connection with this, the rest of the carcase was “ deep fridged ” in accordance with Ministry Instructions).
 Angioma—Livers 188, Cystic Livers 12, Necrotic Livers 11.
 Distomatosis—Livers 31, Cirrhotic Livers 15, Fatty Livers 5.
 Melanosis—Liver 1.
 Abscesses—Livers 10.
 Nephritis—Kidneys 67.
 Nephrosis—Kidneys 12.
 Local Oedema—Flanks 22, Briskets 8.

Parts Pigs Diseased

7 Heads Tuberculosis ; 3 Hindquarters and 1 Forequarter Bruised ; 6 Plucks parasites.

Sheep (Parts)

29 Plucks Parasitic.

Tables of Records of Inspections and Condemnations

	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Heifers</i>	<i>Bulls</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>
Number killed and inspected ...	2.177	6	7	196	533	685
All diseases <i>except</i> Tuberculosis :—						
Whole carcases condemned ...	159	—	—	1	19	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	447	—	—	10	—	29
Percentage of the number affected disease other than Tuberculosis ...	27.83%	—	—	5.61%	3.56%	5.11%
Tuberculosis only :—						
Whole carcases condemned ...	169	—	1	5	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	642	—	3	7	—	—
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis ...	37.2%	—	57.14%	6.12	.186	—

All butchers' shops were regularly inspected, together with making-up rooms, bakehouses, fish-fryers and other food premises. In general, premises were found* to be satisfactory. Bye-laws under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the clean handling of food were observed. It is pleasing to note that the shops continue to display the Notice card issued two years ago, requesting customers not to bring dogs into the premises.

(c) Disposal of Unsound Food

Condemned meat at Slaughterhouses is stained green and allowed to be sold for animal feeding stuff. Condemned tinned foods, etc., from shops are collected by Council workmen and disposed of on the refuse tip.

(d) Shops

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of :—
62 lbs. frozen eggs, 42 lb. beef sausages, 6 lb. pork sausages, 36 lb. of cheese, 47 lb. bacon, 22 lb. ham, 6 lb. corned beef, 1 tin of tongue, 23 tins of meat, 17 tins of beans, 5 tins of peas, 31 tins of tomatoes, 3 tins of carrots, 20 tins of soup, 24 tins of fruit, 23 tins of milk, 8 tins of cream.

(e) Ice Cream

There is no Ice Cream manufactured in the district and the only ice cream sold is wrapped or in tubs, cartons, etc.

One sample of Ice Cream taken in the Middlewich Urban District proved satisfactory.

(f) Food Premises

The undermentioned food premises are in existence in the Middlewich area :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	7
Licensed Slaughterhouses			...	...	3
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	4
Cafes	...	...	...	...	3

Registered under Section 14 F. and D. Act, 1938.

For retail sale of wrapped Ice Cream	15
For retail sale of sausages, meat pies, etc.	14
Dairies registered under M. & D. Regulations, 1949	2

"

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year 1954 :—

Nature of Sample				Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Arrowroot	...	...	...	1	—
Chewing Gum	...	...	...	1	—
Glycerine	...	...	...	1	—
Glycerine and Rosewater	...	...	...	1	—
Milk (fresh)	...	...	...	16	1
Oranges (Spanish)	...	...	...	2	—
Pepper (White)	...	...	...	1	—
Sweet Cigarettes	...	...	...	1	—
Teething Powders	...	...	...	1	—
TOTAL				25	1

Particulars of Non-Standard Sample

Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
Milk	Genuine but abnormal. Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 4·7 per cent	No action as sample was genuine

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases was low, as may be gathered from the following table :—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954

Diseases						Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	27	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	1

(2) Tuberculosis

There were no new cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1954, nor were any deaths in the M.U.D. district reported to be due to this disease.

During the year three pulmonary cases were admitted to and two discharged from Sanatoria.

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year :—

1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
60	58	48	48	43	46	44	45	27	29	28	27

B.C.G. Vaccination

Vaccination of school children in the 12/13 years age group was introduced late in 1954, and the response so far on the part of the parents to take advantage of this protective treatment has been very good.

(3) Disinfection and Disinfestation

Four houses were disinfected in connection with Infectious Diseases and three houses were treated for infestation by bugs.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the members of the Council and officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1955.

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